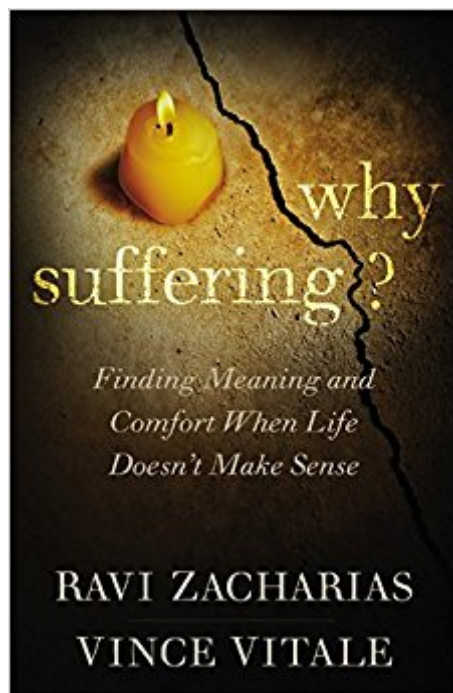




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# Why Suffering?: Finding Meaning And Comfort When Life Doesn't Make Sense



## Synopsis

Why would a loving and powerful God allow so much pain and suffering? In **WHY SUFFERING?** Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale carefully walk you through a variety of responses that considered together provide a clear, comprehensive, and convincing answer. Responses like: Where there is the possibility of love, there has to be the reality of freedom, and therefore the possibility of pain. Wishing God had made a different world is to wish yourself out of existence. In comparison with other world religions, the Christian response is highly distinctive. Here is a book written with great respect for the complexity of the issue, recognizing that some who read it will be in the trenches of deep suffering themselves and others questioning the very existence of a loving God. **WHY SUFFERING?** provides an answer to the problem of pain and suffering with emotional sensitivity and intellectual integrity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Both for Christians and skeptics alike, this volume is as accessible and helpful a treatment of the problem of suffering that you can find. Anyone interested in apologetics in general-and the argument against God from evil in particular-should own and read it." *—*Tim Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York City "We are all different, and we all suffer differently, so no one-size-fits-all answer will ever satisfy. But here, two of Christendom's ablest Christian voices present their best responses and give incisive critiques of the major options. Their conversation is an open invitation to help us all reach an 'examined life' for ourselves." *—*Os Guinness,

author of *Unspeakable: Facing Up to the Challenge of Evil*

RAVI ZACHARIAS is founder and chairman of the board of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, headquartered in Atlanta. Dr. Zacharias and his wife, Margie, have three grown children. DR. VINCE VITALE, born in NYC, went to study philosophy at Princeton University, and there took an unexpected journey that led him to God. He now teaches at Wycliffe Hall of Oxford University, is Senior Tutor at the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics, and is a speaker for RZIM.

We ask it every day. We ask it in the big things and the small things. We ask it when our world implodes around us and when we explode into our world. It is a universal question asked in every human language and guttural moan imaginable. It is asked the world over, from the richest to the poorest, from the East to the West, from ancient times to our modern days. It is a question inherent to our being, the answer to which provides the answer for our ontological longing. Why Suffering? Zacharias begins the book by elaborating on the question. What it is the people mean when they ask this question? How are we supposed to answer? Among other things, he develops the difference between the intellectual question and the personal question. In other words, the beginnings of an answer lie in why the question is being asked. Is this just another intellectual exercise for a skeptic or have they recently been through a tragic loss. Zacharias suggests that while the problem of evil can be discussed philosophically, it is usually best answered pastorally. From this introduction, Zacharias and Vitale trade chapters on various responses to the problem of suffering. Space prohibits a full analysis, so suffice it to say that Zacharias writes on the responses of freedom and morality while Vitale writes about grace, the Cross, and hope. Zacharias also writes a magnificent chapter midway through that compares the Christian answer to the answers from Buddhism, Islam, and naturalism. Every chapter in the book is a goldmine. I suggest you take just over a week to read this book and focus on one chapter a day. Let the material sink it, grapple with it, think through it, and incorporate it into your own life. One thing to note: Ravi and Vince could not have more different writing styles. Ravi's writing is the way he speaks, with such precision and clarity that I can hear the lilt of his voice in my head as I read his thoughts. Vince's writing is more rugged and conversational and also fits his own personality and speaking tone. It's jarring, at times, if you read more than one chapter at a time, but does not affect the quality of the book. You could fill a library with the books on this subject, but in my opinion, there is none better for the average reader than what Zacharias and Vitale offer here. Clear, simply stated answers confirmed through a wealth of resources. Everyone

needs to read this book because everyone deals with this question. Do yourself and those around you a favor and pick it up now.

Well written by both authors. I bought it for someone and after reading it, I think it may be a bit "deep" for that person. A close look at the philosophies on the human condition.

Ravi Zacharias is top drawer...nobody like him. Saw him on TV and got this book. Great help for those who suffer.

great book in great condition I recommend this for anyone who is need a boost in their faith

Ravi Zacharias is a great man of God and all of his teaching make you think and help you to grow closer to God

This book should help to bring healing for those who have suffered loss. Loss comes to everyone in many ways over the span of our lives. It is sometimes difficult to deal with and to see God working for good in life situations. God does not particularly cause these events, but He does work to make us stronger if we are willing to be an active participant.

GREAT book! This man is very down-to-earth. I just love him!

The best book I have ever read on why suffering and evil do not prove that God does not exist. The authors present a number of arguments which individually you may or may not find persuasive, but for me when considered together prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the existence of suffering and evil does not foreclose the existence of a loving God. After all, as they demonstrate, but for this world , exactly as it is, I would not exist.

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